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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

1. The Secretary-General held the sixth round of talks on the question of East Timor in Geneva on 8 July 1995 with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Ali Alatas and the Foreign Minister of Portugal, Mr. J. Durao Barroso.

2. The Ministers discussed developments since the fifth round of talks in January 1995, including the implementation of the Chairman's Statement on the Situation of Human Rights in East Timor, agreed upon by consensus by the Human Rights Commission at its 51st session, the importance of which was stressed.

3. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue, held in Burg Schlaining, Austria, from 2 to 5 June 1995 with the assistance of the Secretary-General, which constitutes a positive effort to help create an atmosphere conducive to the achievement of a solution to the question of East Timor. They expressed their appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting the meeting and to other governments for their support.

4. The Ministers welcomed the Secretary-General's view on the need for convening a further meeting or meetings of the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese dialogue and his intention to pursue the matter with the two parties.

5. The Ministers, without prejudice to their respective positions of principle regarding the political status of East Timor, have begun discussions on the substantive issues identified by the Secretary-General regarding possible avenues towards achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor. In this context, they discussed substantive issues related to an eventual framework for the achievement of such a solution and other related issues, inter alia, the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of the East Timorese people and bilateral relations between Indonesia and Portugal. They agreed to discuss all these issues in conjunction with one another.

6. Following today's discussions, the parties agreed to continue their efforts, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor. The seventh round of talks between the Foreign Ministers under the auspices of the Secretary-General will be held 16 January 1996 in London. Prior to the ministerial meeting, preparatory talks will be held through the Representative of the Secretary-General.

8 July 1995